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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1904.

Education in America.

Some time ago Mr. Alfred Mosely, of England, visited this country at the head of a commission, whose purpose was to investigate conditions in the United States. Mr. Mosely has written for the Independent an article in which he makes some instructive observations concerning his visit.

First of all, he says that he was impressed with many things in regard to education in the United States, but with none more than the general attitude adopted toward it by the people as a whole. Everywhere he found the same firm belief in the value and importance of education as the dominant factor in the moral and material progress of the country. He also came to the conclusion that American boys and girls set a higher value than English boys and girls upon education. He was surprised to see American children go willingly to school and study and submit to discipline without the use of the rod. He believes that this is a sign of the practical self-reliance of the American temperament, and that the good sense of the people leads them to realize that their success in life depends on the use they make of their opportunities.

It is indeed a tribute to American character that in this land, where we insist as a cardinal principle of government upon the greatest liberty to the individual, our boys and girls should so readily and willingly yield to the discipline of the school. But, after all, the reason is not hard to find, for American boys and girls learn from the start the difference between liberty and license; they are taught that liberty implies obedience.

Mr. Mosely has one adverse criticism, however, to make of our public school system. He does not like the preponderance of women teachers. His objection is not based on any doubt as to the sufficiency of their attainments, but he cannot think it is a good thing for big boys of fifteen or sixteen to receive most of their training from instructors of the other sex. "For young children, the case is different," he goes on. "I am quite in favor of women teachers being employed for both girls and boys up to the age of say twelve years, because I believe that women understand the working of the minds of young children and have a faculty of sympathizing with their difficulties and troubles, which is possessed by very few men. But for children of more mature years, I feel that men can provide better mental and moral discipline."

If Mr. Mosely took the trouble to inquire, he doubtless ascertained that American instructors generally entertain the same view. It is undoubtedly better for large boys to be taught by men. Indeed, we think it better for a boy to have a male teacher as soon as he begins to feel that he is too large to go to a girl's school. But teachers are so poorly paid in our public schools that few men are willing to take up teaching as an occupation. Those who engage in it, except those who occupy the higher positions, undertake it as a make-shift or as a stepping stone to something more remunerative. The women are doing the teaching and will continue to do so until there is a very decided change in the system. Therefore, it behooves every State to have one or more first-class schools for the training of women teachers. That is why The Times-Dispatch has urged so persistently that the Normal School at Farmville be made first-class in every respect.

In conclusion, Mr. Mosely says that the fundamental purpose, for which his commission visited the United States, was to investigate how far the industrial success of this country is to be attributed to her educational system. He concludes that education has been the most important factor in her success, and in proof of this, he cites the statement made by President Butler, of Columbia University, that where in the United States the public school term is longest, there the average productive capacity is greatest. It has also been demonstrated that those States, which expend most per capita for public education, show a greater production per capita of material things. It is no longer a debatable question that education is power, and that the better educated a people are, the greater will be their productive capacity.

Russia's Goal.

It is generally understood that Russia went to war with Japan because she was unwilling to make concessions in Manchuria and Korea which Japan demanded. But we must look beyond this for the real motive which has prompted Russia to press on with such vigor toward the East, and to refuse to commit herself to any prescribed course of conduct. Russia has interests in Manchuria and interests in Korea, which she feels constrained to protect; but above and beyond all, Russia is desirous of getting an outlet to the sea.

She has a vast empire, but there is very little sea coast. She has a frontage on the White Sea and the Arctic Ocean, but these are too far to the north to be of much service. She has the Baltic, but that is an inland sea, and is often ice-bound. She has the Caspian Sea, but that is a mere lake, and the Black Sea is shut in. Her Siberian road sought a harbor at Vladivostok, but that harbor is ice-bound during the greater portion of the year. Russia's only outlet, as now appears, is at Port Arthur, and in order to make herself comfortable there she must have free course through Manchuria.

It is a big stake, and Russia is going to play for it with all the forces at her command.

Fighting Militiamen.

It is perfectly proper, as proposed by Mr. Melville, that the names of the Virginia militiamen, who fought in the Confederate war, should be incorporated in the roster of troops which it is the intention of the Legislature to have compiled.

For the last year of the war the militia and local defense troops of Richmond and Petersburg, and of some other localities were in almost constant service. They were called upon to do duty to repel Federal raiders, to guard Federal prisoners and to relieve the veterans in the trenches when the latter were temporarily withdrawn to meet the enemy at other points.

It was a local defense battalion that met Dahlgren on the Western road and prevented him from rushing into this city, and many home guards were in the party which ambushed and killed him. As for the Petersburg militia, their gallantry and efficient service were conspicuously shown when the enemy appeared before that city in June, 1864, when the militia interposed a heroic resistance. Then, too, there were the V. M. I. cadets, who would be excluded if too strict a construction were adhered to in making up the roster. Other instances of valorous service on the firing line, will occur to our contemporaries in other parts of the State.

Let the classification employed in the make up of the roster be so exact and distinct that he who runs may read and clearly understand whether a particular organization was composed of "regulars" or of reserves or militia, but in no case ought any organization to be enrolled unless it saw "actual service." But the men who went to and formed a part of the fighting line surely are entitled to be enrolled.

Our State is very late in setting about this work. Much valuable material has been lost or destroyed, and never can be recovered or replaced; but it is worth while to gather up the fragments that remain. If this duty be entrusted to an able and able-bodied man, who can and will give his whole time to it, much material may yet be rescued from total loss and absolute annihilation.

Cost of Laborers.

No man knows what the cost of the Panama canal is going to be.

Some estimates place it as high as \$175,000,000. It may be more; it may be less. Much, of course, depends upon the cost of the labor employed. It is doubted if sufficient American labor can be hired for this work.

In the first place, American labor is pretty well employed at home. In the next place, our laborers have a dread of the isthmian climate, particularly as they would be compelled to work in the ground and often times in wet spots. It is thought, however, that large numbers of laborers might be gotten from Porto Rico and the Philippines. The former are reputed to be fine workers. It is also said that agents of the Japanese government, or of Japanese companies, have been looking into the question of bringing numerous laborers from that country. Chinese laborers could be gotten also, we suppose, but whether our government would permit the employment of Chinese or Japanese is a question.

A vast deal will depend upon the wages offered laborers and upon the provision the government makes to safeguard their health while building the canal.

That the necessary labor will be gotten we have no doubt, but the matter of cost is problematical, we think.

The cost of an isthmian canal, however, never has disturbed the minds of the American people much. Having satisfied themselves that it was needed, they resolved that it should be built, at one or the other places declared to be suitable for it, and no matter at what expense.

Republican Differences.

The Virginia Republicans seem to be divided in allegiance between Congressman Slomp and Chairman Agnew, each of whom aspire to leadership.

Our impression has been that the President had decreed that Mr. Slomp should control the Federal patronage in this State, but obviously that is not the case. If Mr. Slomp had that power he would be better able to guide the rank and file. As it is, it is possible he may be overwhelmed in the Republican State convention by his rival's followers.

The prizes to be contended for are the State organization and the positions as delegates at large from Virginia to the Republican national convention, and the outgivings of the newspapers are that the Agnew faction will win, though not without a sharp contest. However, we do not expect that any great row will occur. A word from Washington may come, and if so it will act like oil on troubled waters.

Time and again Republican warring factions have been pacified in that way. It now seems certain—if, indeed, there ever was a doubt—that Mr. Roosevelt will be renominated and we take it for granted that both factions of his party in this State are anxious to please him. The question is whether he considers it worth his while to interfere with Virginia politics.

ues. He has the power to stop this controversy, but will he exercise it? Does he care? That's the point!

Newspaper Enterprise.

We are gratified to learn that the Baltimore News has resumed publication, with its own equipment, two weeks after the complete destruction of its establishment by fire.

That is, indeed, wondrous enterprise, but no achievement of this enterprising contemporary need excite surprise. The News has been well educated in the school of achievement, and it is accustomed to overcoming difficulties. It is a staggering blow for a newspaper to have its entire plant destroyed by fire; it is a great triumph for a newspaper so afflicted to resume business at the old stand inside of two weeks!

Mr. J. C. Bayles, who recently made a special visit to Baltimore in the interest of the New York Times, has contributed to that paper an article entitled "How Fireproof Buildings Withstood the Fire." It is interesting and instructive, but the sum and substance of it is that if doors and windows had been required by the ordinances of the city to be protected by fire-resisting shutters, the conflagration "would not have gained headway, nor at any time passed beyond the easy control of the local fire department." He thinks that in that event the building in which the fire originated would have been burned out, and perhaps the buildings immediately adjoining it, but such a calamity as has befallen Baltimore "would have been practically impossible."

These views of Mr. Bayles are in line with those of other experts whom we have seen quoted. In numerous cases Mr. Bayles found that the fire had entered what otherwise would have been fireproof buildings by exposed windows and doors.

It is foreshadowed that the colored "man and brother" is to be little in evidence at the approaching Republican State convention, to be held at Norfolk. Few such delegates have been elected. The party is of the opinion just now that it can get along better without them than with them.

By the way: Although not a newspaper editor and not mentioned in the bill, Mr. Cleveland seems to have earned that hundred dollars offered by Mr. Bryan for an up-to-date, first-class Democratic platform.

Virginia Valley farmers are for universal peace, but if the war in the far East is going to keep wheat up to a dollar a bushel, they won't mind if hostilities continue until after harvest time.

Mr. Bryan's complimentary allusions to Virginia statesmen, when he was addressing the Legislature yesterday, were to dead statesmen. None of those present were mentioned.

Russia is just beginning to tell what she is going to do to the Japs. In the meantime the Japs are doing what they are going to do to the Russians.

The Legislature didn't have a bad idea of how to celebrate Washington's birthday. A good day's work well done was George's way.

Newport News, with all Virginia to backhand her, is going to make the 5th of April a great Virginia day.

Congressman Bourke Cockran: We salute you. Men like you are needed in the body you now belong to.

The earth is trembling in New Mexico, and the people are trembling in unison with the earth.

The ice gorges in Manchuria streams and thereabouts are also allied with the scraggy little Japs.

The rural Virginia mill is now engaged in inventing makeshifts for the old time "cote day."

The will shows that in the meantime Mr. Hanna kept an eye on his private business.

It is madding time in old Virginia; time for matching up the plow horses.

Colonel Bryan did not capture the whole town, anyhow.

THE JUNIOR ORDER.

Break the Record for Growth in North Carolina.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHARLOTTE, N. C., Feb. 23.—The thirteenth annual convention of the State Council J. O. U. A. M. met here today for a two days' session. The reports of the officers showed a gain of 2,800 members during the past year, or 54 per cent. This is regarded as a record breaker in growth of secret or benevolent orders.

A public meeting was held at night, at which the mayor of Charlotte and other speakers were heard. The election of officers takes place to-morrow.

Normal School Begins Work.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) GREENSBORO, N. C., Feb. 23.—The State Normal and Industrial College resumed work today. It is stated by a member of the faculty that two hundred of the three hundred inconveniences by the State have returned, and took up their line of work this morning. Many who applied for readmission could not be received on account of limited accommodations.

Succeeds His Brother.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) GREENSBORO, N. C., Feb. 23.—Major R. M. Albright, of this city, former employer of the Southern Railway, has been elected manager of the North Carolina Car Service Association, to succeed his brother, Percy R. Albright, who has accepted the position of assistant to the general manager of the Coast Line Railway, at Wilmington.

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HE REFUSES TO ANSWER

Court May Compel Man to Testify in Case Against Gamblers.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) RALPHIGH, N. C., Feb. 23.—In the Supreme Court this morning argument was heard in the appeal of the case against C. G. Briggs from Wilson, in which the defendant appeals from a ruling by Judge Moore, that he must answer questions as a witness in the Morgan gambler trial, that he contends would tend to incriminate him. Briggs is represented by J. E. Woodard and the State by the Attorney-General, Glinner.

Another case of interest that will be heard to-morrow is an appeal on the part of the commissioners of Wilson county from a writ of mandamus by Judge Moore, that they issue licenses to sell liquor to J. F. Bridgers, of Bridgersville; P. A. Davis, of Black Creek, and A. M. Howell, of Boyette, Wilson county. The commissioners contend they have the right to exercise discretion in this connection. The light grew out of an effort to make Wilson county prohibition. The authorities in the towns where the saloons are located, State Councilor, George E. Hood, of the Junior Order, United American Mechanics, spent yesterday here on his way to Charlotte to attend the State council, and stated that during the past year thirty-one new licenses had been issued, and the membership has grown from 3,000 to 8,000, and the value of the property owned by the councils is over \$15,000.

W. J. Bryan made quite a favorable impression on his immense audience last night, and men of all parties and political affiliations join in pronouncing his lecture a masterly effort. He caught the popular ear at the outset by a pretentious tribute to Governor Aycock, who was speaking in that he was speaking in "a State that has far more ideals than many States, and that Governor Aycock was to be classed among the statesmen who have noble ideals and who have the Governor was attaining his ideal with marked success. The Agricultural and Mechanical College, too," he said, "is an institution with a high ideal," and he was glad to compliment the college and Dr. Winston. He was full of praise for the college during the past year, and spoke under the auspices of the Athletic Association of the college. Mr. Bryan left here this morning for Richmond.

PLASTERING FALLS.

J. D. Johnson, a Virginia Insurance Company agent, was seriously injured yesterday morning early by the falling of the overhead plastering in his bedroom. The plaster came crashing down on the bed before he had gotten up.

Governor Aycock announces that he will not interfere with the execution of the death sentence of Jabel Register, who is to be hanged Thursday of this week for the murder of Joseph H. and Jim Smiley, Solicitor Lyon, of the Fourth District, wrote the Governor that he did not desire a respite in order that Register might be used as a witness against Smith, whom he had implicated in the murder. Lyon wrote the Governor that the opinion is that Register only concocted the "confession" in the hope of getting another respite.

A large delegation of tobacco warehousemen from Winston-Salem, Wilson, Rocky Mount, and other towns of the State are here to-day arguing before the Corporation Commission the Justice of their demands for a lowering of the tariff on tobacco. The warehousemen insist on by the railroads, is double first-class, and the warehousemen ask the commission to order a reduction to first-class.

The Secretary of State charters the Durham Iron Works was chartered with \$50,000 authorized and \$5,000 subscribed by A. P. Gilbert, W. H. Kiser and others. The company proposes to construct a general engine and boiler repair shop.

The Building Committee of the State Board of Agriculture was in session to-day, going over the situation and arranging for the completion of the \$30,000 agricultural building for the Agricultural and Mechanical College. It is the purpose of the board to erect the building during the coming spring and summer.

Governor Aycock returned this morning from Southern Pines, where he was the guest of honor last night at Piney Woods Inn at a banquet given by the friends of Southern Pines.

Voice of People

ON
Current Topics.

LAND GRABBING.

The Experience of a Prominent Land Owner of Henrico.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—There is no more cheering sign of the times than that afforded by our exposure of the system of "land-grabbing," which has grown up under war-rant of law during the past few years, and you will have the cordial thanks of our county men for your spirited gibing of this abuse.

But Treasurer Todd has not touched the darker aspect of this evil. Under that statement and the case a land-owner would be safe if he should promptly pay all taxes levied against him; but, as a matter of fact, the prompt payment of all claims affords to a citizen of Henrico no protection against the exploits of county authorities.

Here is a case in point: For more than a third of a century I have been a resident of Henrico county, and I have paid every tax bill as it became due; yet during the past few years for attempts have been made by county officials and licensed peddlers to extort money from me, two of which attempts were successful.

In one instance delinquency was claimed on land which could be identified in no other way than by declaring it to be "near the Hungry Road." As there are two Hungry roads in the county, with an aggregate length of some twelve or fifteen miles, the problem seemed a perplexing one, so I slipped out of the difficulty by paying the claim.

In another instance a tract of land was described as "adjoining Harris," but the Harris family is numerous, and much scattered, so I again gave up the struggle and paid that claim also.

The next demand was based on two items running back some fifteen years, and calling for sixty-odd dollars. But there was, fortunately, a clue here, afforded by the words "formerly Davidson." So I turned to the title of a tract which I had purchased from Dr. Davidson, oldest conveyancer in Richmond, and the abstract credited me with the items in question, which were deducted from the purchase money, and so recorded.

On bringing these facts to the attention of the county clerk, I was told that the law forbade him to go beyond the records of his office; that the tax stood on his books against me, and that I must either pay the bills, produce the receipts, or lose the land.

I got interested in the matter. I was certain that the tax bills had been paid, yet to find the receipts was another story; for it had long been my custom to make payment by check, and I had no other regular method of preserving receipts. But I believed those receipts were somewhere among my papers, and after devoting the last of many weeks to a general rummage, I found them, duly receipted by the deputy clerk himself. I took them to the clerk, the Hon. Samuel P. Vaddill, and asked him if he could identify the signatures. He agreed to do so, and compared the dates and amounts, entered the credits there, crunched the bills in his hand and blandly remarked that "accidents would sometimes happen."

I was on guard now. The next time I paid taxes I looked over the delinquent list and found myself charged with a delinquency, though I held the receipt for it in my hand. On calling attention to the error, the treasurer cautioned me against being what he called "obstinate" about it, and so, half-despairing, I went to the County Surveyor Redd and begged him to make a plat of that portion of the county where my little holdings are situated, drawing them to scale and giving dead-book reference to each tract.

This work was carefully done, and was well worth, to me, the thirty or forty dollars which it cost, although it would be somewhat detrimental to the interests of the county, or its rulers. For one of the first facts which this plat revealed was that for years I had been paying three separate taxes on a certain tract of land which appeared on the books under different designations. I am glad to be able to say that the two erroneous claims were cheerfully cancelled, but there seems to be no way of recovering the money which had been extorted.

Now, Mr. Editor, I have no reason for supposing that my experience differs from that of all other land-holders; and if that assumption be true, we surely need not wonder why Virginia is lagging behind her sister States.

I ought to know, it may be unpatriotic or against public policy to uncover these sores; still, such practices, in the long run, must prove fatal. It is an order of things which poisons at its source all trend of honest effort, and it is a national shame. If uncorrected, it would taint with squalor the most opulent of cities; it would whelm in bankruptcy any people who would endure it; it would change the fairest land on earth into a desolation and a waste.

I will not sign this paper, nor will I draw into a newspaper controversy; but you are at liberty to give my name to any one who has a right to ask for it.

BACK WOODS.

THE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Senator Thomas, of Lynchburg, Presents His Views.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Being confined to my room, by reason of illness, I am unable to appear in person at the opportunity of stating my position on the school question in the Senate Tuesday last, I respectfully ask the courtesy of your paper for that purpose. Considerable interest is shown in the subject.

The eminent source from which the prescription for Robert John's Medicine was originated is a sufficient guarantee of its value. In the fifty years since it was prescribed for the late Rev. Father John O'Brien, of Lowell, Mass., by Dr. J. C. O'Brien, and from whom it derived its name, this old family remedy has never failed to do all that is claimed for it. It cures colds, grip and all throat and lung troubles, builds up the system, prevents pneumonia and consumption. It is not a patent medicine, and we again call your attention to its freedom from poisonous stimulants, upon which the majority of patent medicines are sold. It is a "cure" and "balm" demanded for their effect, and which are dangerous—we warn you against them. Father John's Medicine is for sale by Owens & Minor Drug Co., 187 East Main Street; City Drug Store, 114 East Main Street; People's Drug Store, 3300 Williamsburg Avenue; Northside Pharmacy, 44 North Fifth Street; Pine Street Pharmacy, 34 South Pine Street; East Pharmacy, 281 Venable Street.

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WHO IS WHO?

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LINEN SHEETINGS at \$1.00, \$1.25, \$1.50 and upwards. These make the most satisfying gowns.

About the 22d instant the vast bulk of our goods was ready for your inspection.

12½c this season has vast buying power, and we want to show the Etamine at this popular figure.

White and Black and White Etamine, Oxford, Madras and other swell effects at 25c.

50c Figured Foulard Silk now 39c. The rarest value in the country to-day is a 27-inch WHITE OXFORD at 12½c.

India Linons, Dimities, Nainsooks and other staples opened to-day. Suits and Coats for spring ready for your close scrutiny. New Gloves for you to see.

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place that will minimize many troubles that now afflict the body politic.

The negro's greatest need at present is moral training, without which liberty degenerates into license and intellectual development becomes the cause of crime.

The object of all education should be to increase usefulness; therefore, the education given to both races should be along the lines in which they must act in carrying out their duties in the state of society which exists. I believe that good schools all over the State, as the necessary funds are available, there is little doubt that better methods of schools, transportation of pupils, etc., etc. I must admit that Virginia, in the present state of her finances, could not be expected to do much, but I think she would be equally mistaken to continue to do nothing. We can make a most start and increase our efforts as times become more auspicious.

I have not considered the question in a partisan light. It rises above party politics into the dignity of a State question, involving the fundamental elements of State greatness.

A. T. THOMAS.

Lynchburg, Va., Feb. 19th.

State Farm.

Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—Can you be true as reported here that the convicts at the State farm raise tobacco, and that it is sold on the open market in competition with the honest farmer's tobacco? We do not believe that the State will permit the convicts to compete in this way with her farmers.

W. N. R.

Danville, Va., February 20, 1904. (Tobacco is raised on the State farm and sold on the Richmond market.—Editor Times-Dispatch.)

Mr. Charles J. Jones Here.